

There's something suspicious—
suspicious, too—about this low
gas pressure at this time of the year.

The Topeka State Journal

MARCH came in like a lion.
But Texas, who made the roar,
When I heard the postman's whistle,
And found my bills at the door.
—Nels Yingle.

HOME EDITION

TOPEKA, KANSAS, SATURDAY EVENING, MARCH 4, 1916—TWENTY PAGES

THIS EDITION 2 CENTS

U-BOATS DESTROY 3 MORE ENEMIES

Berlin Reports Sinking of Two French Cruisers.

British Patrol Boat Also a Plunger Victim.

3,130 DOWN ON LA PROVENCE

Transport May Not Be Included in List of Three.

French Steamship Sinks Same Day It Leaves Port.

Berlin, March 4.—(By Wireless to Sayville.)—The sinking of two French auxiliary cruisers and one British patrol boat by German submarines is announced by the admiralty.

The announcement also says that from Paris is reported the sinking of the transport La Provence, which carried 1,500 men, of whom only 495 were rescued.

La Provence was listed as an auxiliary cruiser in the Admiralty's Blue Book. The dispatch does not make it clear whether she was one of the two said to have been destroyed. Official reports from Paris indicate that about 3,130 went down with her. The French admiralty said no sign of a submarine was observed before or after the sinking.

Six Men Drown.

La Rochelle, France, March 4.—The French steamship Lakeme of Dunkirk, 3,117 tons gross, which sailed from La Rochelle on Tuesday was sunk on the same day in the Bay of Biscay, six miles northwest of Yeu. She is believed to have struck a mine. Six of the 22 men of the crew were lost.

Paris, March 4.—The French admiralty of marines has issued an official statement denying a German report that two French destroyers had been sunk off Havre by German submarines. The German report did not reach the United States until today. The French report admits the Provence carried 4,000 men.

WAR WITH U. S.?

Nothing Doing, Comments Member of Reichstag.

America Could Finance Europe Allies Indefinitely.

Copenhagen, March 4.—Herr Naumann, a member of the Reichstag contributes an article entitled "Will America Join the Allies?" to the Schleswig newspaper, Heindal, the organ of the Schleswig Danes in which he says:

"Our wish that the United States preserve its neutrality is easily comprehensible. We already have sufficient enemies and it is a great decision to think of entering a war in which one more can make no difference.

America's Naval Strength.

"Declaration of war against the United States would result in a fleet numbering in 1913, 169 units with 1,531 guns, placing itself on the side of Great Britain and the allies, to the possibility of an absolutely effective blockade. In addition there is the American army which it is true at present only an untrained period, but that one more can make no difference.

America's Naval Strength.

"Our ships in American harbors and the daily increasing financial power of the United States would mean an incalculable prolongation of the war because America would finance all her allies for an unlimited period. The Germans have learned to assume superhuman burdens during the war but we cannot shut our eyes to the endless sacrifices which war with the United States would demand."

NAT'L G. A. R. AT K. C.

Expect 25,000 Visitors for Encampment, Beginning August 29.

Kansas City, March 4.—The national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic will be held in Kansas City from August 29 to September 1 next. It was decided today that the dates were decided upon at a meeting attended by G. A. R. national officers and the local entertainers committee. Twenty to twenty-five thousand veterans are expected to attend the encampment.

WIFE BURNS CATALOG; OH! IT'S HUBBY'S BANK; HE MOURNS LOSS \$2,650

Deatur, Ill., March 4.—Noah Lindy, a farmer living near Arcola, today is mourning the loss of \$2,650 in crisp United States currency. Lindy has secreted these bills in a mail order company's catalogue and while away from home his wife had taken them along with other waste papers.

England Honors First U. S. Nurse To Die at Front

London, March 4.—The Rev. R. J. Campbell, describing a visit he paid recently to hospitals on the British front, says:

"An American nurse died while I was there, the first to give her life in our cause, and her funeral was a sight to see. Every medical officer and nurse that could be spared from duty and every soldier, too, wounded and not wounded, that could walk behind the coffin, did so."

The coffin itself was covered with the Stars and Stripes and the grave where it lies is still a flower of blossom."

SUFFS WAGE WAR

Twenty-Five Chicago Women Organizations Unite.

Aroused by Petticoat Graft, They Start Reform.

Chicago, March 4.—Twenty-five women organizations representing various interests, will hold a joint meeting March 18 as an outgrowth of the charges brought by Mrs. Page Waller Eaton against her superior Mrs. Osborn, Chicago's superintendent of the bureau of public welfare, hearing of which closed before the civil service commission yesterday.

The object of the meeting as outlined today is for non-partisan discussion on the "Needs of the City."

SENDS OUT S. O. S.

Brazilian Steamship in Collision 60 Miles From N. Y.

Later Flashes "All's Well"—British Cruiser to Rescue.

New York, March 4.—The Sergipe, a Brazilian steamship which left this port yesterday afternoon for South American ports, collided with another vessel early today about 60 miles south of New York. An hour after she had sent out an S. O. S. call, the ton last night during a snowstorm was still fast today. It was hoped the steamer could be floated at high tide. She was said to be in no danger. The steamer was bound from Norfolk to Baltimore and had a large number of passengers aboard.

Liner Aground But Safe.

Old Point Comfort, Va., March 4.—Chesapeake line steamer City of Baltimore, which went aground on the bar last night during a snowstorm, was still fast today. It was hoped the steamer could be floated at high tide. She was said to be in no danger. The steamer was bound from Norfolk to Baltimore and had a large number of passengers aboard.

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HOUSE VOTE ON U-BOAT CRISIS FINISHES FIGHT

Complete Victory for Administration Is Expected.

Agree to Postpone Balloting Until Tuesday.

COMMITTEE FLOPPED, 17 TO 2

Complete Change of Front on Warning Issue.

Despite Leaders, Both Parties at First Were "Antis."

Washington, March 4.—The next step in President Wilson's fight to dispose of the armed ship agitation in congress has been postponed until Tuesday.

At an early conference today administration leaders in the house decided not to insist on a vote today. This afternoon the rules committee will meet to frame a rule to table the McMeire resolution to warn American off the armed ships of the European belligerents. The rule will be brought in the first business Monday when the administration force plan to dispose of it by substantial majority.

Committee Is Agreed.

The foreign affairs committee already has agreed on the resolution. Administration forces plan that the action in the house shall give no room for doubts of the decisive character of the sentiment in congress. They plan that the action to table the McMeire resolution will include a declaration that the president shall handle diplomatic affairs without congressional interference.

The leaders are confident they have the votes to make their victory complete and undisputed. They explained that the postponement was agreed upon because of the absence of so many members on week-end trips.

Many left yesterday morning for New York, which began at 10 o'clock, was to end at noon and would consider only the ship issue.

Expect Prompt Action.

Wilson's fight to end agitation in congress handicapping the administration in its submarine negotiations with Germany was transferred back to the (Continued on Page 2)

BLAST KILLS 20

Reserve Dropped Case of Grenades in Paris Fort.

Stores of Munitions Blown up and Fire Follows.

Paris, March 4.—Twenty persons were killed and a large number injured in the explosion near St. Denis, in the suburbs of Paris this morning.

The explosion occurred near the fort called Double Couronne at Courbevoie, near St. Denis. Part of the ramparts east of the fort were blown up.

A quantity of explosives, including hand grenades, was stored in this position. The explosion was caused by further explosions, although of less severity.

The Temps says 30 persons were killed and 30 persons injured.

Fires broke out at several points as a result of the explosion, which was caused by the explosion of a pile of grenades by soldiers of the reserve.

Kansas and Oklahoma Crude to \$1.40 and Premiums Offered.

Tulsa, March 4.—The price of Oklahoma and Kansas crude oil advanced to \$1.40 a barrel here this morning, the highest price in the market.

The increase of ten cents was announced by the Prairie Oil & Gas company in addition to the posted price.

Many buyers are reported to be paying premiums between 25 and 40 cents a barrel.

15-Cent Premium on Crude.

Pittsburg, March 4.—So strong was the crude oil market here today that producers expected an advance by the purchasing agencies when the news came from Tulsa of a further advance in the Mid-Continent field.

But no advancement was made here, although it was stated on the highest authority that premiums of five and ten cents over the posted price of \$2.40 a barrel for Pennsylvanian crude were being offered by refiners.

From the West Virginia district came the information that the premium had gone to 15 cents a barrel, an advance over the posted price.

More than a million barrels of crude oil are said to be held in West Virginia and a higher price, which producers declare are sure to come.

LEIPZIG FAIR MONDAY

Attendance Nearly Double Last Year's—Foreign Tour Buyers Attracted.

Berlin, March 4.—The spring fair at Leipzig will open March 6. The number of buyers who have applied for the reduced railroad fares is 23,900 as compared with 15,700 last year.

Notwithstanding the difficulties of crossing the frontier, the number of buyers from central countries is larger than on the occasions of the former fairs at Leipzig during the war. The largest number comes from the United States. These buyers are interested principally in toys. Others come from Switzerland, Holland, Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and a number of exhibitors is 2,500, compared with 2,200 last fall.

Evelyn Ignores The Divorce Suit of Harry Thaw

Pittsburg, Pa., March 4.—Evelyn Nesbit Thaw's resolve not to contest the divorce action of Harry Kendall Thaw was fulfilled today. Mrs. Thaw did not even answer the notice served.

Evidence was heard on charges of desertion and other offenses. The name of Jack Clifford, Mrs. Thaw's dancing partner, is mentioned.

There is hardly a question that the divorce will be granted.

BRYAN TO CAPITAL

What Has Visit to Do With U-Boat Crisis?

German Reply on Armed Ships Comes Tomorrow.

Lansing announced today that the appendices to the German memorandum regarding armed merchant ships were on board the steamship Rotterdam, due tomorrow to New York.

Secretary Lansing's announcement was based on a cablegram from Ambassador Page at London. The appendices contain photographic copies of what the German government contends are confidential instructions to commanders of British merchant ships armed for defensive purposes to attack submarines. Upon this instruction Germany based the declaration of intent to retaliate by attacking armed merchant ships of her enemies.

The attitude of the state department toward the German declaration will be definitely determined after officials have studied the appendices.

William J. Bryan came to town today to fulfill a lecture engagement. He expects to leave tonight for New York. My lecture was arranged for weeks ago. I have no engagements to see any congressmen and do not expect to see any.

DESERT TO DIAZ

Two Thousand Carranza Forces Join New Revolution.

Old Generals Flock to Standard of New Leader.

New Orleans, March 4.—Victories won in the first skirmishes by the forces of General Felix Diaz in Lower Mexico have resulted in the reinforcement of the victor's forces. Two thousand Carranza forces who are said to have deserted to the Diaz forces, are now fighting for him.

General Diaz's staff at New Orleans, Tex., has been informed that the Carranza forces are now fighting for him.

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ARMY AND NAVY READY FOR WAR WITH GERMANY

Plans Are All Made if Worst Comes to the Worst.

Half Million Troops to Europe the First Thing.

FURNISH ALLIES MUNITIONS

Torpedo Boats Would Be Sent to Clean Out Plungers.

War College Has Even Solved Transportation Problem.

Washington, March 4.—Navy and war department experts are discussing the chances of war with Germany and the manner in which the fleet and army could be utilized to assist the allies.

The war college has, as one of its duties, the work of making plans covering attacks by the United States on any foreign power. Members of the college say they have not been asked to prepare any new plans. It is known, however, that members of the college and other experts have given consideration to the question of possible war with Germany.

Nearly all army and navy officers of importance think it is absurd to suppose that the projection of the United States into the war could possibly end the conflict by next summer.

They believe, however, that the end would be brought nearer by the entrance of the United States into the conflict, but they believe also that with the United States as an ally of England and France, the war would still be drawn out, unless Germany should be given up by the light, as they believe she might well do against such heavy odds.

Our First Moves.

The consensus of opinion is that two things would be done immediately if the United States went to war with Germany.

First, the torpedo boats of the United States would be sent to the English channel and the Mediterranean to assist in clearing the sea of German submarines.

Second, the United States would send at once 500,000 rifles for distribution among English, French and Russian recruits. The United States now has 500,000 rifles to spare and it is known these rifles are the one thing most needed in the camps of the allies.

This would be followed as soon as possible by another 500,000 rifles. Mr. Trevelyan declared this morning that he had received no report from the Kansas Natural Gas company, which supplies the local community with gas of any trouble. Hence his theory of the heavier demands. No definite information regarding an increased demand can be obtained however, until after the meters are read.

From the half starved and near frozen condition of the Russian army, mixed with the sulphurous remarks that are paid the company are implications that frigid zone temperatures are rapidly rising, the rise being 35 cent gas. Belief that gas is being withheld from consumers until the price is advanced was heard frequently during the day.

At any event, it is the worst shortage in years.

WARMING UP AGAIN

A Rise in Temperature Set in at 8 O'clock Last Night.

A general warming up is following the cold snap and the snow disappeared today. A southwest wind brought the mercury up rapidly, the rise beginning after 8 o'clock last night. A fairly good Sunday is in prospect with warm weather, but some chance for clouds. The temperature tonight is expected barely to touch freezing at Topeka.

The forecast calls for generally fair weather tonight and Sunday; warmer in the southeastern part of the state tonight. The forecast indicates temperatures of 15 to 20 degrees for 36-hour shipments north and west; east and south, 20 to 25 degrees.

The lowest temperature was set in 19 degrees at 8 o'clock. From that time onward the rise was steady, the mercury crossing the freezing line at 7:30 o'clock this morning. By 10 o'clock it was up to 40 degrees.

At no time after this date in the 29 years that the local records have been kept has the mercury gone below zero. The lowest temperature on record for March 4 is 1 degree below in 1891. The high record, 81 degrees, was set in 1910. The Kaw river is still falling, the stage this morning being 7.1 feet. The river has finally reached the point where it can be forgotten about until the spring rains begin.

Temperatures today averaged 1 degree above normal. The wind is blowing at the rate of 12 miles an hour from the southwest. Following are hourly temperature readings furnished by the weather bureau:

7 o'clock...31 11 o'clock...42
8 o'clock...33 12 o'clock...44
9 o'clock...35 1 o'clock...49
10 o'clock...40 2 o'clock...53
3 o'clock...58

SHOT UP THE VATICAN

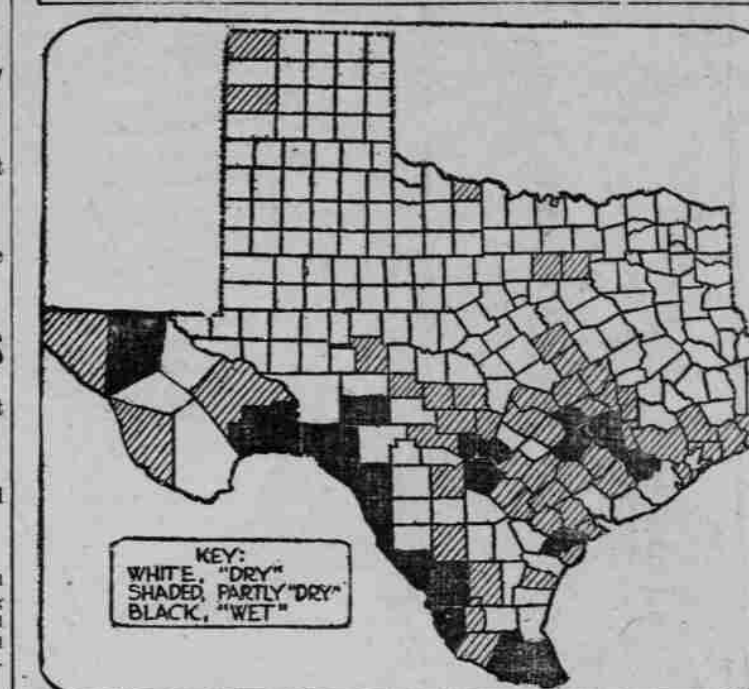
Swiss Guard Creates Sensation Resisting Arrest in Rome Palace.

Rome, March 4.—An incident among the Swiss guards at the Vatican in which the guard, Joseph Manzi, discharged his firearm has been magnified by certain Italian newspapers into an international matter involving Italian passports and the Swiss frontier.

Manzi, who was shot, was a member of one of the local high school teams, died Friday night. McLaughlin severely bruised his ankle from which blood poisoning developed.

The negro inhabitants were wildly excited over the visit of the president and thought they were going to see a king until otherwise informed, it was stated. They were bitterly disappointed to see that the colonel was not dressed even as brilliantly as the native police chief.

"MAKE TEXAS DRY," ANTI-SALOON SLOGAN IN LONE STAR STATE; BRYAN IN FIGHT



A campaign to make Texas dry is among the possibilities of the near future in the Lone Star state. William Jennings Bryan will address the annual convention of the Texas Anti-Saloon League this month, and it is believed he will urge a constitutional amendment banning the saloon from the state. At the convention the question of "submission" will be decided.

WHERE IS THE GAS YEGS WRECK BANK

The Greatest Shortage Experienced in Topeka in Years.

No Accident to Pipe Line Has Been Reported.

Charge Blowing Open Safe Demolishes Building.

Tulsa, Okla., March 4.—Bank robbers blew open the safe and wrecked the bank at Mounds, Okla., early today and escaped with between \$7,000 and \$8,000 in currency.

Twelve explosions were reported to have taken place in the bank. The explosion which finally opened the money chamber burned the currency until it is thought that it will be identified with ease wherever the robbers attempt to pass it.

Three men took the handcar belonging to the section foreman of the St. Louis and San Francisco, and escaped in the direction of Kiefer immediately after the robbery. They have not been located.

MILLION TO HETTIE

Mrs. Green Sells Famous "Old Eureka" Gold Mine.

Extinct Since '77—Said to Have Yielded \$20,000,000.

San Francisco, March 4.—The purchase from Mrs. Hettie Green, the New York capitalist, of the "Old Eureka" gold mine at Sutter Creek, Amador county, California, by a syndicate of eastern millionaires was announced here today. The price was said to have been more than \$1,000,000.

Among the purchasers, according to the announcement were William E. Corey, steel magnate, John D. Ryan and Tom Cole of the Anaconda group, and Ambrose Monell of the International Nickel company.

The mine long known as "Hettie Green's pet kitten" was opened for a brief period in the early seventies and was reputed to have produced \$20,000,000. In 1877 Mrs. Green closed the mine down and caused it to be flooded with water. The explanation for her action given at the time was that the thought rivals were attempting to force her to sell it.

Walter Deam, a Denver mining engineer arrived here today to purchase the old shafts and tunnels and to prepare the mine for new operations.

MOWED DOWN IN HEAPS

Machine Gun Operator Writes Home of German Slaughter at Verdun.

Paris, March 4.—A machine gun operator says in a letter to his family, written from the Verdun battlefield on February 27:

"The German dead lie in heaps around us. It has been thus for several days. At Paris we were obliged to move our machine guns back twenty to thirty yards as the German dead were piled so high as to interfere with our fire. We shot them down as they jumped over their comrades' bodies. We are now resting but are always ready to begin again to show the Germans that the French soldiers are their masters."

BASKETBALL INJURIES FATAL TO H. S. PLAYER

Pittsburg, Pa., March 4.—As the result of an injury sustained in a basketball game two weeks ago, Charles McLaughlin, aged 20, a member of one of the local high school teams, died Friday night. McLaughlin severely bruised his ankle from which blood poisoning developed.

ROME, March 4.—The chamber of deputies gave Signor Salandra's government a vote of confidence of 278 to 40 on the occasion of a motion by the socialist leader Turati to open a discussion on the whole conduct of the war and on the government's foreign policy.

SECOND BATTLE IN VERDUN ATTACK

Village of Douaumont Now Is Key to Verdun Drive.

Giant Armies in Death Grapple for Sector.

GERMANS CAPTURE MANY GUNS

Occupy Town, but French Gain in Fierce Counter.

Germans Repulsed in Bloody Duel for Heights.

London, March 4.—The driving German assault on Verdun has halted for the second time in the Douaumont sector north-east of Verdun, on this occasion in the face of a formidable counter-attack by the French in an effort to retake Douaumont village, just captured by the Germans.

Paris last night declared that the counter attack had enabled the French